



Kauai leads the charge



Zach Octavio, AMR Kauai Manager demonstrates correct use of lap/shoulder belt.

There's no such thing as a free ride for keiki on Kauai—that is if EMT's and MICT's on the island have their way. They are working toward having every child properly secured in a car seat or booster seat when out for a ride. Since the beginning of the year, twelve paramedics on Kauai have completed the four-day National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) certified training in child passenger safety. The NHTSA training covers topics such as vehicle crash dynamics, types of restraints and their proper use and installation, and basic injury prevention.

More than any other island, Kauai's children are at risk for serious injury resulting from car crashes. An observational study recently completed by the University of Hawaii's Department of Urban and Regional Planning found that Kauai had the State's lowest car seat use rates with

77% of infants and only 20.9% of toddlers properly restrained in car seats.

AMR Kauai Manager, Zach Octavio is committed to doing something about this. His goal is to have 80% of his personnel trained in child passenger safety and all medic units on the island set up as fitting stations. For now, families can drop by Medic 21 in Lihue to get their car seats checked for free. According to Zach, "Prevention is the best way to go. If we can prevent even one child from being seriously injured, it will be well worth the effort."

If you would like to become certified, the NHTSA training is offered periodically at no charge on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island. The next training will be held on Oahu on November 6, 7, 17 and 18 at St. Francis Medical Center West in Ewa Beach. To register or to get more information, contact the Injury Prevention & Control Program at 586-5940.

Oahu, Too



MICT Chris Kendall talks to students at Benjamin Parker Elementary School in Kaneohe.

Message from EMS Chief

I am pleased and excited to share this first issue of the Community Injury Prevention Response Newsletter with you. From your work, you may already have a sense that injuries are the leading cause of death in Hawaii among all age groups. But what you may not know is that for every case you handle, there are probably hundreds of cases that you don't see that require a visit to a doctor or home treatment.

As EMS professionals we can do our very best to treat and minimize the effects of the injuries we see, but the bottom line is that too many suffer serious and permanent damage.

The good news is that injuries are highly preventable! Getting people to wear their seat belts, put their children in car seats, lock up their guns and wear a bicycle helmet are all very effective in preventing injuries.

I invite you to join forces with others in your communities that are already working to promote safety at home, work, play, and on our streets. As you



begin to feel the rewards of keeping your friends and neighbors safe and healthy, you will understand why I feel injury prevention is so important—as much for the community as for ourselves as EMS professionals. My goal is to have EMS as the medical home for injury prevention statewide.

Whether you are getting information on the injury prevention mini grants or learning what your colleagues on another island are working on, we hope you find this newsletter informative and relevant.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donna Maiava".

Donna Maiava,
*Emergency Medical
Services Chief*



EMSC — What's That?

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program was created by congress in 1984, to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness and injury. EMSC refers to specialized care designed for children who have experienced a serious injury or acute illness. EMSC enhances the pediatric capabilities of the standard emergency medical care system, which originally was designed for adults. (continued on page 3.)



One-third
of all
ambulance
calls in
Hawaii are
injury
related.

Injuries kill
more people
through the
age of 44
than AIDS,
cancer and
heart disease
combined.

EMSC continued from page 2.

In 1998, Hawaii EMSS was awarded a two-year state EMSC Enhancement and Partnership grant. The grant focuses primarily on three areas: integrating pediatric criteria into the EMSS quality improvement system, increasing injury prevention efforts by the Hawaii EMS system, particularly relating to children, and encouraging more primary care physicians to participate in the medical home model which ensures a continuum of care from primary prevention through rehabilitation.

For more information on the EMSC, visit their web site at <http://www.ems-c.org>

In each newsletter, we will feature a selection of injury resources. If you have a favorite of your own that you would like to share with your colleagues, we would love to hear from you. Here are the picks for this edition:

Publications

Do you make presentations to groups or speak at schools? If you do, you will want to get a copy of "Safety Advice from EMS (SAFE): A Guide to Injury Prevention."

Developed by safety experts and distributed by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, it contains lesson plans with master sheets for handouts and overheads on traffic safety related topics tailored to specific audiences. Topics include occupant protection, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, speeding, yield for emergency vehicles and driving under the influence. For information on how to get a copy, call Liane at 586-4671 or e-mail: lmkam@mail.health.state.hi.us

Childhood Injury Links

Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii
<http://www.kipchawaii.org>
Emergency Medical Services for Children
<http://www.ems-c.org>
National Safe Kids Campaign
<http://www.safekids.org>
Children's Safety Network
<http://www.edc.org/HHD/csn/>
Consumer Product Safety Commission
<http://www.cpsc.gov>

Do you have an idea for an injury prevention project and need some funds to make it happen? Help is available and it may be as easy as filling out a one-page mini grant application. EMS personnel can apply for up to \$2,000 to use to start new or expand existing community injury prevention activities. Between six to eight projects will be funded this fiscal year. For more information or to request an application, call Liane Kam at 586-4671.



Injuries are the leading cause of death for children after age one.

The leading causes of injury deaths for Hawaii children are related to motor vehicle incidents, homicides, drowning and suicides.

On average, about one child each week dies from injury in Hawaii.

Most injuries can be prevented or minimized.

EMSC Hawaii Staff

Linda Rosen M.D.

EMSC Pediatric EMS Medical Director Dr. Linda Rosen, M.D., has dedicated her life to keeping children safe. In 1994, she was named the Outstanding Advocate for Children and Youth for her work improving the safety and health of the children in Hawaii. In 1998, she was also named the Emergency Physician of the Year.

A pediatrician with over 15 years of EMS service, Dr. Rosen has recently accepted a position with the Department of Health as the Family Health Services Medical Director. Dr. Rosen also co-chairs the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii and is president of its board of directors. As the State EMS Pediatric Medical Director, Dr. Rosen is responsible for developing EMS pediatric protocols for EMS and quality improvement in pediatric prehospital medical care.

Liane Kam

Although new to the EMS area, EMS Injury Prevention Coordinator Liane Kam knows prevention. She was among the original group in Hawaii trained in child passenger safety and has volunteered at community car seat check-ups. She was also involved in establishing the Keiki Car Seat Hotline over four years ago. Liane is a member of the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition and is also the past president of the Board of Directors of the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition.



Crashes Aren't Accidents

Following the lead of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), we are asking for your kokua with not using the word "accident" in connection with motor vehicle crashes. The words "crash", "collision", "incident", and "injury" are better substitutes for the word "accident" when communicating with the news media, other health professionals or the public.



Motor vehicle crashes and injuries are predictable and preventable events. Using the word "accident" leaves the public with the impression that injuries are an unavoidable part of life. In fact, injuries are the predictable result of specific actions.

So please remember that crashes aren't accidents. With your help we can help people to realize that crashes and other "accidents" can be prevented or minimized.

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